

# Maryland Emergency Preparedness Network Winter 2023-2024 Newsletter



## Table of Contents:

- A note from the Program Administrator *p. 2*
- Our Programming *p.3*
- Resources on our Radar *p. 4*
- Preparedness in the Press *p. 5, 6*
- Credits *p. 7*

Winter is here in Maryland, and we can't wait to share tools and tips to support your preparedness this winter season.

In this issue, you will find...

A note from our Program Administrator, a reflection about our Fall programming, preparedness resources on our radar, and state preparedness news!

Connect with us here:



# A note from the Program Administrator:

*Winter is not the death of the life cycle, but it's crucible."*

*- Katherine May.*

I loved this quote from May's book Wintering, which takes the winter season as a noun and creatively crafts it into a verb. Wintering is the act of enduring, and endurance fosters our resilience.

What if we allowed ourselves to see the forest through the trees this season and view this time as a period of transformation, as May does?

In a world that welcomes speed, Winter slows its pace. In a world that welcomes noise, Winter shares its silence.

During this time, we are invited to explore the consolations of nature, which reveals how this season of retreat can be incredibly restorative.

Inspired by this pace of nature, I have been reflecting upon the concept of resiliency at the individual and community levels. Both involve the ability to adapt and recover from adversity.

I am looking forward to thoughtfully crafting programming designed to explore resiliency and the means to strengthen it.

Stay tuned for all there is to come! Until then, on behalf of the EPN, we are very thankful for the privilege of serving as a resource that continually supports your resilience.

With gratitude,

*Kendal Lee*



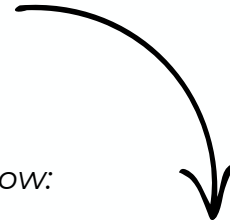
# Our Programming:

**In the Fall**, we introduced our new **“Lunch & Learn Webinar Series,”** which was designed to serve as an opportunity for our network to learn about an emergency preparedness topic or community resource over the lunch hour.

In November we hosted *two learning sessions*:

- Meet the Maryland Poison Center - *November 03, 2023*
- Meet MD Project Firstline - *November 14, 2023*

*Learn more about these preparedness packed sessions below:*



## Meet MD Project firstline



Dianne Kashak, MA



Lynne Layug, MPH

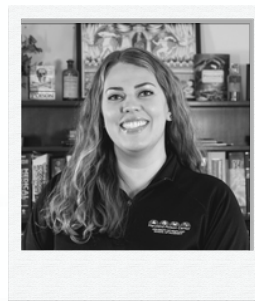
During this session, led by Dianne Kashak and Lynne Layug, attendees had the opportunity to learn about MD Project Firstline, an outreach program created in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control that provides accessible infection control education and training designed by healthcare professionals for healthcare professionals in Maryland to sharpen their infection control skills and complete a brief training on “Source Control.”

Check out this informative webinar and explore its materials. [here](#).

## Meet the Maryland Poison Center

During this session, led by Emily Paterson, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the Maryland Poison Center, a regional poison center certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), and explore its supportive services and poison prevention tips.

Check out this informative webinar and explore its materials [here](#)



Emily Paterson, MPH

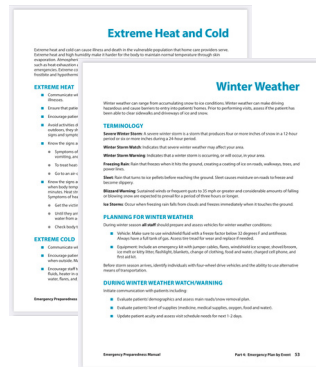
# Resources On Our Radar

## Winter Weather Preparedness

Are you looking for a one-stop shop for preparedness tips before, during, and after a winter storm?

We have you covered with FEMA's "How To Prepare For A Winter Storm" Guide, which includes a Winter Storm Preparedness Checklist!

- [FEMA's Guide](#)



Are you a provider looking for winter weather tips to better prepare your staff and patients?

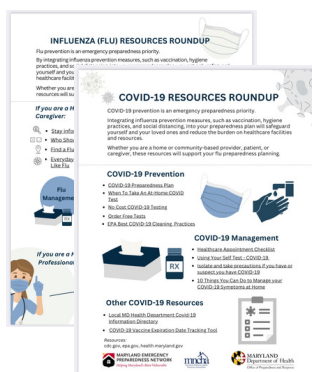
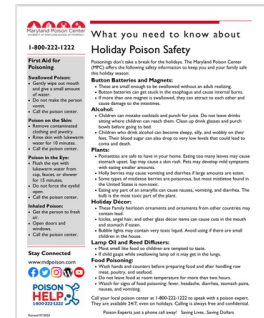
Look no further than these pages from our Emergency Preparedness Guide :

- [Winter Weather](#)
- [Extreme Cold](#)

## Winter Wellness Preparedness

Prevent poisonings this winter season with the Maryland Poison Center's (MPC) :

- [Holiday Poison Safety Fact Sheet](#)
- [Winter Poison Safety Fact Sheet](#)



Are you looking for all things infection prevention for this season's most common viruses? We've got you covered with our *Resource Roundup Guides* :

- [Influenza \(Flu\) Resource Roundup](#)
- [COVID-19 Resource Roundup](#)
- [RSV Resource Roundup](#)
- [Norovirus Resource Roundup](#)

# Preparedness in the Press

**Maryland is among a select few states to obtain capitalization grants from FEMA.**

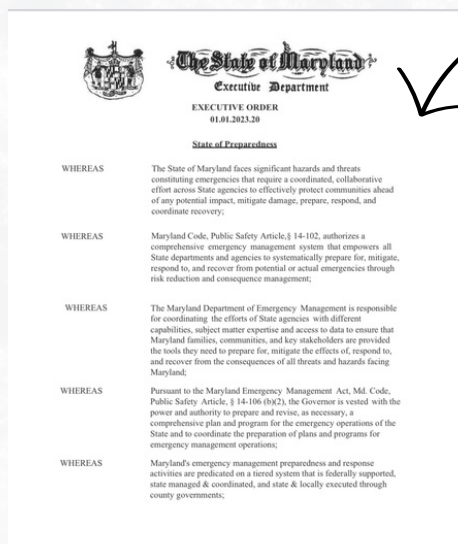
The state received \$6.5 million, the second-largest award, as part of the innovative **Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program** aimed at assisting communities in reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters and hazards.

The State created the **Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**, which is a program that offers *low-interest loans* (no more than 1%) to local governments to help finance projects and activities that *mitigate the effects of natural hazards*.



Learn more [here](#).

*“The safety and security of our residents is our top priority, and this executive order empowers us to act proactively in the face of potential threats,”*  
- Gov. Moore.



**Governor Wes Moore has signed an executive order establishing a State of Preparedness.**

This order prioritizes proactive readiness to respond swiftly to potential threats without declaring a full State of Emergency.

This initiative aims to enhance safety by coordinating early preparation and resource management, encouraging residents and visitors to stay informed and take recommended preparedness actions.

Read more [here](#).

# Preparedness in the Press cont.

**Governor Wes Moore appointed** *Meghan Conklin* as the *first Chief Sustainability Officer* and **Michael Hinson** as the **first Chief Resilience Officer** to combat climate change and strengthen the state's ability to respond to emergencies.



Michael Hinson  
Chief Resilience Officer  
Maryland Department of  
Emergency Management

Conklin focuses on environmental goals, aiming for Maryland to lead in sustainability, while Hinson, leveraging his emergency management experience, leads efforts to build resilience across the state, prioritizing vulnerable communities and coordinating resources.

The EPN had the pleasure of meeting Hinson. We were inspired by his passion for supporting Marylanders' preparedness.

Both appointments signify Maryland's commitment to proactive climate action and preparedness for unforeseen challenges, with the aim of positioning the state as a leader in sustainability and resilience.

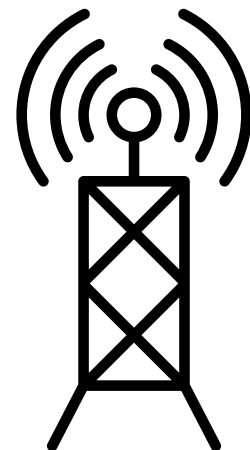
Read more [here](#).

## **Maryland Celebrates Unveiling of its First of 70 Mesonet Towers...** *What is a Mesonet and what does it mean for Marylanders?*

A **Mesonet** is a network of automated weather observing infrastructure designed to take frequent and reliable atmospheric measurements.

Installation of these towers will improve the accuracy and precision of weather prediction in the state, which, as a result, will advance emergency preparedness, enhance public safety and protect Marylanders.

Learn more [here](#).



## DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

All information contained in this document is intended for educational purposes only.

The information presented here is not intended to be used for medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you have any questions or concerns about your health, please contact your doctor, healthcare provider, local urgent care, and emergency services.

We do not guarantee the accuracy of any information provided on this document. The use of this document is at your own risk.

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### **RESOURCES/GRAPHICS /PHOTOS :**

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- Portrait on P. 6 was provided by Michael Hinson, Chief Resilience Officer, Maryland Department of Emergency Management.